

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1, 3-6, 7-8, and 11 are amended to replace the terms "containing" and "is comprised of" to "comprising" and "comprises," respectively. Claims 12-13 are added. Support for new Claims 12-13 is found on page 4, lines 1-9. No new matter is believed to be added upon entry of the amendment. Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1-11 will remain active.

The rejection of Claims 1, 6-8, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 4,842,911 (hereafter US '911) is respectfully traversed.

US '911 discloses an interfacing comprising a composite of dual layers, one of the layers being cured or vulcanized silicone rubber filled with heat conducting particles, the other layer being silicone rubber in a uncured condition filled with heat conducting particles (e.g., see col. 8, lines 19ff, Claim 1). The latter layer is cured under heat (e.g., col. 4, lines 19-24 and Claim 1 (col. 8, lines 39-40)) and is, therefore, a heat curable layer.

In contrast, the layer (a) of the heat conductive composite sheet of the present invention is a heat softening, heat conductive layer comprising a silicone resin and a heat conductive filler (e.g., see pending Claim 1). More specifically, the layer (a) is essentially solid at room temperature, but reduces in viscosity, and is capable of either softening or melting at temperatures that range from 40°C to 100°C (Claim 12), and preferably from 40°C to 90°C (Claim 13, see page 4, lines 1-9).

Since US '911 does not disclose a heat softening layer comprising a silicone resin and a heat conductive filler, the heat conductive composite sheet of the present invention is different from the interfacing described in US '911.

It is kindly requested that the Examiner recognize this difference and withdraw this rejection.

The rejection of Claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined disclosures of US '911 and U.S. Patent No. 6,482,888 (hereafter US '888) is respectfully traversed.

The rejection of Claims 4-5 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined disclosures of US '911 and U.S. Patent No. 6,506,828 (hereafter US '828) is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, US '911 neither describes nor suggests a heat softening, heat conductive layer containing a silicone resin and a heat conductive filler. Both US '888 and US '828 are entirely silent about such a heat softening, heat conductive layer.

Furthermore, US '911 describes that the uncured layer is cured under heat and pressure to form "a permanent and extremely-strong bond between the heat sink **5** and the previously-vulcanized upper layer **7A**" (Emphasis added herein. See col. 4, lines 28-31, FIG. 3, and Claim 1 (col. 8, lines 39-41)).

On the other hand, the heat conductive composite sheet of the present invention is peeled off easily (e.g., page 23, lines 20-26 and Table 2) and, therefore, offers excellent reworkability (e.g., page 26, line 2). These results can not be expected based on the disclosure of US '911, because the strong bonding between a heat conductive member and a heat conductive sheet results in a deterioration in reworkability (specification of the present application, page 2, lines 11-14 and page 2, line 31 to page 3, line 2.)

From the foregoing, it should be apparent that Claims 2-3, 4-5 and 9-10 are not obvious over the disclosures of US '911, US '888, US '828, and any combination thereof.

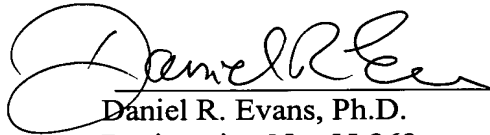
It is kindly requested that the Examiner acknowledge the same and withdraw these rejections.

Application No. 10/643,978
Reply to Office Action of March 11, 2005

In view of the remarks contained herein, it is believed that the present application is in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that a personal or telephonic interview would be helpful in advancing this application toward allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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